

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

Recpt # _____

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

85-1806

24 June 1985

Mr. Douglas Gregory
Office of the Honorable C.W. Bill Young
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Doug:

Enclosed is the material we discussed on the utility of the polygraph. I hope it meets Mr. Young's needs. Included are:

a study put out by the DCI Security Committee in February 1984 entitled "Polygraph Utility Study;"

a report published by the Department of Defense in 1984 entitled "The Accuracy and Utility of Polygraph Testing;"

a report prepared for the Personnel Security Subcommittee of the DCI Security Committee in 1983 entitled "A Review of the Scientific Literature on the Validity, Reliability, and Utility of Polygraph Techniques;" and

an unclassified executive summary of a history of CIA's polygraph program.

In addition to the above, you may wish to obtain from the Office of Technology Assessment a study it published in November 1983 entitled "Scientific Validity of Polygraph Testing: A Research Review and Evaluation." This latter study takes a less positive view of the validity of polygraph examinations than do the others cited above.

Sincerely,



Chief, Liaison Division
Office of Legislative Liaison

Enclosure

STAT

24 June 1985

CIA POLYGRAPH PROGRAM - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Polygraph testing has played a crucial role in the Central Intelligence Agency's security program for the past 36 years. During this time, the CIA has developed incontrovertible evidence of the value of this vital procedure.

The CIA's experience with polygraph involves close to a million separate polygraph charts. The value of the polygraph, indeed its indispensability, is clearly reflected in the fact that about 80 percent of the security disapproval decisions taken by the CIA's Director of Security are based on information developed during the polygraph examination.

The polygraph program of the CIA is not limited to applicant screening - the testing of all persons employed by, assigned to or detailed to the CIA in a staff-like status.

On a periodic basis, all CIA employees are subjected to retesting. CIA also utilizes the polygraph in certain industrial security cases involving particularly sensitive programs.

The CIA polygraph program is closely controlled and managed by the Agency's Office of Security, following strict guidelines established by the Director of Central Intelligence. Polygraph examiners are generally selected from the ranks of professional security officers who have had on-the-job experience and who were initially the subjects of a rigorous selection process prior to entering the Security career field. All examiners are volunteers and are carefully selected for their maturity, emotional stability, evenhandedness and dedication. They receive their formal training at the CIA Polygraph School and then must complete a 9-12 month probationary period under the close scrutiny of experienced Agency examiners.

Over and above the initial training and probationary period, a strict quality control program is designed to ensure that the highest technical standards are met by all examiners, whether at the apprentice or senior examiner level. All charts are reviewed by supervisory personnel who also provide ongoing guidance and monitor as necessary during the course of actual polygraph examinations.

The House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence completed a detailed study on security clearance procedures in the Intelligence Agencies in September 1979, at which time there was a full review of the CIA's polygraph program. The staff report concluded that the CIA's "security clearance procedures appear to be the most comprehensive and stringent in the Intelligence Community.

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DIRECTOR
OF
CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE

SECURITY COMMITTEE

POLYGRAPH UTILITY STUDY

February 1984

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OF POLYGRAPH TESTING




DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
1984

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**A REVIEW OF THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE
ON THE VALIDITY, RELIABILITY, AND
UTILITY OF POLYGRAPH TECHNIQUES**

This Report has been prepared for
Distribution to the
Personnel Security Subcommittee
of the DCI Security Committee

by

 Chief, Polygraph Division,
Office of Security,
National Security Agency

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Fort Meade, Maryland

1983